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VIRGINIA BORROWING FROM SPAIN.

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR JEFFERSON TO GOVERNOR
GALVEZ, 1779.

(From Original in Virginia Archives.)

[That Virginia attempted (and probably with success) to borrow money from Spain, while carrying on the Northwestern Campaign under Clarke, seems to have received but little notice from our historians; and as little has been said of the most essential service rendered by Oliver Pollock, and perhaps other merchants in New Orleans, in furnishing supplies to the Western troops, which, if it did not make their victory possible, certainly was indispensable for the retention of their conquests. The letters of Governor Henry, here referred to, have not been preserved, but it is evident that an attempt was made early in the war to secure money from Spain. R. H. Lee, writing from New York, November 24, 1777, says: "With reference to the loan of money out of the Havannah or N. Orleans, I am not able to form a judgment whether it can be effected or not; the latter most probably, because Dr. Lee was able to get but a small sum immediately from Spain for Congress, although he expected a larger Credit from Holland thro' the mediation and security of Spain." It appears from an entry in the Virginia Executive Journal, October 8, 1777, quoted by Mr. Henry (*"Patrick Henry,"* I, 606), that before that date, the Spanish government had shipped stores intended for Virginia to New Orleans. It is not known with certainty whether the money asked for by Henry and Jefferson was obtained; but as later, Oliver Pollock was stated to have been a debtor to the King of Spain for 13,112 dollars, it is probable that this amount was a loan. If the Count de Gabrez, who also appears later as a creditor of Pollock's for 74,087 dollars, was the same as de Galvez, it would seem that the Spanish Governor had granted Jefferson's request to pay Pollock the sum named in his letter. Pollock, however, writing from New Orleans, May 26, 1780, states that he has applied to

Governor Galvez for pecuniary assistance, but without success, as that officer required all his funds for his own purposes.

When it is stated that no reference has been made by historians to Spanish aid and the great service rendered by Oliver Pollock to Virginia during Clark's Campaigns, reference was had particularly to those who have written especially on this portion of Revolutionary history. Neither Roosevelt nor English mention the subject. But Mr. W. W. Henry, in his "*Patrick Henry*," I, 603-606, pays a well deserved tribute to Pollock. He says: "In remembering the men to whom Virginia was indebted for the success of this most important expedition, one name deserves the highest honor. It is that of Oliver Pollock, the agent of the State at New Orleans, who furnished the money which enabled Clark to complete and hold his conquests." Mr. Henry then gives a brief sketch of Pollock's services. The State of Virginia paid him in bills drawn on Penet, Dacosta & Co., of Nantes, France. As the tobacco against which these bills were drawn, did not reach France, they were protested, and Mr. Pollock was ruined. He sold everything he possessed to pay debts he had incurred for Virginia and the United States. After the Revolution, commissioners appointed by the State found due him a sum amounting to \$92,321, and recommended that an additional amount should be paid him in consideration of damages. They quote in their report, a letter from General Clark, in which he speaks of the very essential assistance rendered him by Mr. Pollock, and by General Galvez, who, in 1785, had become Viceroy of Mexico. In 1780, Governor Galvez wrote to "D^r Tho^s Jefferson," introducing Mr. Lewis Toutant Beauregard, a merchant of New Orleans, to whom Virginia was also indebted for supplies furnished the Western troops. He was probably an ancestor of General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, C. S. A.

For notices of Oliver Pollock and his claims, see the *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, I, 347, 425; II, 488, 570; III, 153, 590, 607; IV, 14, 47, 63; V, 192, 230-1, 244, 251-4, 432. Rev. H. E. Hayden, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., has written a pamphlet treating of Oliver Pollock.]

Williamsburg, November 8th, 1779.

Sir:

By Mr. Lindsay, who was sent from our County of Illinois in the Mississippi to New Orleans, and lately arrived here on his return by the way of Havanna, we hear that Col. Rogers had left New Orleans and proceeded up the Mississippi. We are anxiously expecting by him your Excellency's answer to the Letters of January 14, 1778, by Col. Rogers, and January 26th, 1778, by Captain Young from Governor Henry to whom I had the Honor of succeeding on his Resignation. The Accession of his most Catholic Majesty since the Date of these Letters to the Hostilities carrying on by the Confederate powers of France and North America against Great Britain thereby adding to their efforts, the weight of your Powerfull and wealthy Empire, has given in all the certainty of a happy Issue to the present Contest of which human Events will admit. Our vicinity to the State over which you immediately preside ; the direct Channel of commerce by the River Mississippi ; the nature of those Commodities with which we can reciprocally furnish each other, point out the advantage which may result from a close connection, and correspondence for which on our part the best Foundation are laid by a grateful sense of the Favors we have received at your Hands. Notwithstanding the pressure of the present War on our people, they are lately beginning to extend their Settlements rapidly on the Waters of the Mississippi, and we have reason to believe, that on the Ohio particularly, and the Branches immediately communicating with it, there will in the course of another Year, be such a number of Settlers, as to render the Commerce an object worth your Notice. From New Orleans alone can they be tolerably supplied with necessaries of European Manufacture, and thither they will carry in Exchange Staves and Peltry immediately and Flour, Pork and Beef as soon as they shall have somewhat opened their Lands. For their protection from Indians, we are obliged to send and station among them, a considerable armed force, the providing of which with Cloathing, and the Friendly Indians with Necessaries, becomes a matter of great Difficulty with us. For the smaller Force we have hitherto kept up at Kaskaskia on the Mississippi we have contracted a considerable Debt at New Orleans with Mr. Pollock, besides what is due to

Your State for the Supplies they have generously furnished and a Number of Bills from Col. Clarke now lying under protest in New Orleans. We learn by Mr. Lindsay that Mr. Pollock is likely to be greatly distress'd, if we do not immediately make him remittances, the most unfavoreable Harvest ever known since the Settlement of this Country, has put it out of our Power to send flour, obliging us for our own Subsistence to purchase it from the Neighbouring States of Maryland & Pennsylvania, to whom we have until this year furnished large Quantities. The want of Salt disables us from preparing Beef and Pork for your market. In this situation of things we cannot but Contemplate the distress of that gentleman brought on him by Services rendered us with the utmost concern. We are endeavouring by Remittances of Tobacco to establish a Fund in France to which we may apply to a certain extent. But the Casualties to which those Tobaccos are liable in their Transportation, render the Dependence less certain than we could wish for. Mr. Pollock's relief, and besides that we have other very extensive occasions for them, young as we are in Trade and Manufactures, and engaged in war with a Nation whose power on the Sea, has been such as to intercept a great proportion of the supplies, we have attempted to import from Europe, you will not wonder to hear, that we find great Difficulties in procuring either Money or Commodities to answer the calls of our comerce, and therefore that it would be a circumstance of vast relief to us if we could leave our Deposits in France for the Calls of that part of our State which lies on the Atlantic, and procure a Suspension of the Demands from your Quarter for supplies to our Western Forces One, Two or three years, or such longer Time as could be obtained.

With this view, Governor Henry in his Letters of January 14 and 26th, 1778, solicited from Your Nation, a loan of money which your Excellency was so kind as to undertake to communicate to your Court.

The success of this application we expect to learn by Col. Rogers, and should not till then have troubled you with the same Subject, had we not heard of Mr. Pollock's Distress, as we flatter ourselves that the Application thro' the intervention of your Excellency may have been successful, and that you may be authoriz'd to advance for us some loans in money. I take the

Liberty of Soliciting you in such case to advance for us to Mr. Pollock, sixty-five Thousand, Eight Hundred fourteen & $\frac{5}{8}$ Dollars. Encompassed as we are with Difficulties, we may fail in doing as much as our Gratitude would prompt us to, in speedily replacing these aids. But most assuredly nothing in that way within our power will be left undone. Our particular prospects for doing it, and the time it may take to accomplish the whole, shall be the Subject of another Letter, as soon as I shall have the Honor to learn from you whether we can be Supplied and to what extent.

By Col. Rogers I hope also to learn your Excellency's Sentiments, on the other proposition in the same Letters, for the establishment of Corresponding posts on your side and ours of the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Ohio, for the promotion of Commerce Between us. After returning our most cordial thanks to your Excellency, for the friendly Disposition you have personally shewn to us, and assuring you of our profound Respect and Esteem, beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's Most obedient and most humble Serv^t,

(Signed) TH. JEFFERSON.

His Excellency, Don Bernardo Di Galvez.

TRUSTEES OF HAMPDEN-SIDNEY COLLEGE.

Second Paper—Contributed by J. B. HENNEMAN.

93. 1841—1845. Rev. Patrick J. Sparrow, D. D., of Prince Edward, *vice* Thomas Tredway, resigned. Pastor of the College Church, like 80. President of the College, 1845—1847. Also Member of Board of Union Theological Seminary, 1834—1836.

94. 1841 (resigned). Branch Jones Worsham, of Prince Edward, *vice* Francis B. Dean, resigned. Clerk of Prince Edward Courts for fifty-three years (1816—1869). He and Francis Watkins, 12, were the only clerks in Prince Edward from 1783 to 1869. His portrait hangs in the Clerk's office at Farmville. The site of the old Court House, about a mile from Hampden-